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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested from Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 1

March 12, 1942

CONNECTICUT (March 1).--USDA State War Board and agricultural committee of State Defense Council meet separately but exchange information. At county level, both groups consolidated in County War Board, original War Board plus additional farmer members; AAA chairman is chairman, Extension agent executive secretary. County war board determines how any emergency farm program best handled, makes assignment to local people and reports back to proper board. Extension Service responsible for information work for USDA War Board and Agricultural Committee of Defense Council, has assigned additional temporary assistant editor to job.

Extension Service and State Defense Council handling recruiting farm labor, including help in organizing women's land army. Farm boys and girls enlisted in 4-H Victory Corps, goal of 20,000 Club members and production \$1,000,000 worth of needed foods set. Local draft boards asking Extension agents make recommendations for or against deferment for each type work. Farm machinery check list card mailed to farmers; series of repair clinics with dealers and farmers well along.

DELAWARE (March 5).--Food, feed, programs developed by Extension committee now in full swing. Extension director also Agriculture Chairman State Defense Council; associate director, chairman agriculture committee on Defense Savings staff.

Timely dairy, poultry subject-matter letters printed, mailed farmers; folder furnished farmers for filing letters along with bulletins, etc. Garden publication, related material widely distributed farmers, garden clubs, schools, etc. Five hundred attended four poultry and dairy schools. Series meetings with tomato growers-canners scheduled for March. Cooperated with 10 vocational agriculture departments in establishing farmer machinery repair schools. Planning subcommittee has surveyed canning capacity and labor requirements over State, working closely with the Federal Farm Placement Service.

Home demonstration staff has selected State, county, and local defense chairmen. Working with the Red Cross in setting up nutrition classes for various groups. Practically all 4-H Club members will have Victory gardens. Club program also stressing increased poultry and dairy production; scrap collection and Defense Bonds.

FLORIDA (March 1).--Florida Farmers and Food for Freedom bulletin, and 8-page newspaper Food for Freedom section enclosed; 53,000 copies of newspaper sections printed and placed in 41 newspapers week of February 12.

All Negro agents and most white agents naming community food-production chairmen; community meetings being held throughout State following district conferences.

Extension-goals committees named to check progress, expect all goals to be exceeded except garden and peanuts for oil; tremendous effort being put there; expect many more gardens and peanuts for oil to be planted than pledged by farmers last fall.

County agents have surveyed nitrate of soda situation and reported to War Board; scrap-metal campaign getting into full swing, Taylor County reports 100,000 pounds already shipped.

State home demonstration agent is chairman of State Defense Council Garden Committees, has received garden reports from county home agents, many being county garden chairmen for defense council.

Director Newell chairman of Advisory Committee on Agriculture to State Defense Council.

Explains how Lee County Agricultural Planning Committee helped meet serious labor shortage for harvesting potatoes, by getting 50 workers from WPA and campaign to round up others.

LOUISIANA (February 28).--Concentrating on Food for Freedom goals. Local leader training courses in gardening given in 10 counties. Distributed 5,000 garden posters, 30,000 windshield "Grow a Garden" stickers, 90,000 garden-guide planting charts. Arrangements made with seedsmen to furnish seed at discount for home gardens. Plans made for 6 new canning centers in 1 parish.

Louisiana hatcheries now U. S. certified, 42, compared to 28 last year. Pushing home-made lamp brooders to increase poultry production; requests about 25 a day for brooder bulletin.

Marketing specialists and agents helping farmers plan facilities for inspection and grading of eggs to meet Government requirements and get supported price.

Extension agricultural engineer directing farm-machinery campaign, estimate 75 percent of farmers taking part in program. Extension poster, (6,000 copies) distributed.

Weekly suggested editorials on farm subjects sent by Extension Service now used by 85 percent of papers. Enclosed 30 clippings of Grow a Garden story, and mat sent to papers, 14 four-page Extension leaflets on wartime problems, 2 posters.

Reported meetings: Soybean, with farmers, 6 parishes; community organization, 5; farmer-businessmen livestock, 4; a number of farmer meetings on gardening, handling lespedeza hay, canning, etc. Cooperated in setting up farmer's market, East Baton Rouge.

MONTANA (March 3).---Five members State Extension staff each assigned district to get production program going in. Series leader training meetings attended by 800.

Nutrition, farm gardens received major emphasis at annual conference, county outlook meetings. Plan complete coverage State with food preservation demonstrations, training schools stressing canning, freezing, brining, drying, winter storage.

Conservation clothing stressed demonstrations, leader-training schools over State. Farm families urged buy Defense Bonds, enroll home nursing, first-aid classes, other Civilian Defense work. Definite effort to integrate adult and junior work, reach all rural families. Establishing more leader-training centers closer to small neighborhood groups.

Active planning organization in 46 counties, revising preliminary State agricultural war programs; making survey in counties of livestock, numbers, carrying capacity, available feed, acreages and production all crops, other land uses. Counties planning post-war reserve work projects to be adapted and help fill gap after war.

Labor committees established practically all counties, agents working closely with Reemployment Service; effective results distribution available labor. Community organization for exchange of labor being perfected number of counties. Farmers feeling intense on labor; feel Government should help work it out.

Much emphasis given machinery repair; results good. Seven-Point 4-H Victory program sent to all counties; expect 100 percent cooperation. Supporting all programs with bulletins, leaflets, news stories. Farmers vitally interested getting supported price at farm level. Extension effort to explain price situation, improve quality, bring production in line so purchases can be made, have been extended.

NEBRASKA (March 1).---Food-for Victory being pushed largely through following programs: Home and Garden, pasture-forage-livestock, 4-H Club. Specialists (20) taken off regular duties, each assigned 4 counties with the responsibility to see program is carried out.

Garden program in counties got under way by conference with Extension agent, War Board chairmen, county Civilian Defense chairmen. Plans laid to take message to every rural family; get them sign Victory Pledge to grow adequate garden. Large committee, composed of Federal, county, farm, school, church, civic, American Legion, Boy Scouts, Girl Reserves, and others discussed plans and selected smaller executive committee, which then usually chose Victory leaders. One leader to every 8 or 10 families. In addition to above groups also, sign-up being obtained through public schools, garden committees and clubs. Some cities furnishing irrigation water at reduced rates. Step just ahead is training voluntary local leaders. Storing products and prevention of waste.

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While 20 specialists carried on organization load, other Extension workers busy preparing supporting materials, i. e., leaflets, planting guides, news and radio releases; holding 20 district farm machinery schools and leader-training meetings on canning, cheese making, poultry production, etc.

Material sent out included 12 garden broadcasts given recently over one station, daily flashes sent to other stations, 10 talks given on station just outside State.

Sent: Extension Service News, special garden issue, to 12,000 farm families; 150 mats of garden pledge to papers; material for Victory Home and Garden issues of 4 large dailies. Special garden article for Nebraska farmer; garden transcription for 4-H program, etc.

Basis of Pasture-Forage-Livestock program is to insure production of dairy, poultry, pork, and other needed products.

NEW HAMPSHIRE (March 1).---Much care going into Extension travel plans; more effort into training local leaders. Series Farm for Victory meetings, started February, continuing in March. Farmers sent questionnaires on labor needs. Coos County, Extension agent worked with representatives of labor-using interests, laid plans for staggering work to avoid interference with peak farm operations. Extension committee studying plans for summer work camps to use student labor, College of agriculture planning special training.

County agents furnished lists of community garden chairmen, appointment made by local OCD, approved by War Board. Extension Service training chairmen. Fruit specialists starting series meetings with farm people March 6.

Extension Service, at Governor's request, organizing wood-fuel cutting program as insurance against oil and coal shortages next winter; done in conjunction with War Boards and OCD. Wood fuel chairmen being appointed each community. County meetings to explain procedure scheduled March 2-12. Questionnaires sent every woodland owner. Supplementary questionnaire on fuel needs, available labor, use of sawing equipment to be distributed at community meetings.

Survey indicates dealers have best stock machinery repair parts in history. More than 500 farmers attended recent extension mower, plow "tune-up" meetings. Cooperative use machines being organized, particularly Rockingham County.

Eighty thousand 8 x 11, two-color cards, Yardstick of Good Nutrition, being distributed. Extension Service, War Board, cooperating in series wartime circular letters mailed to all farmers in State. Printing revised folders and bulletins on maple sirup, pulpwood, credit, gardening, pest control, etc.

Study being made in Grafton county determine possible duplication waste on truck milk collecting routes; similar studies planned through principal dairy counties. Clothing renovation meetings every county stressing use substitutes and clothing conservation. Salvage dealers have expressed appreciation of "great help" given by 4-H Clubs in collecting scrap metal, old rubber, other waste material. Facing hay and fertilizers early; make best use organic fertilizers.

SOUTH DAKOTA (March 2).---Extension Service asked by War Board to take initiative in general economic information, machinery repair, poultry, hog, dairy feeding and management, and garden program. All war efforts checked with War Boards. Situation discussed at three series district conferences for War Board members; handbook for committeemen prepared. Agents conducting similar discussion series county-community meetings in March. Agents trained last fall by Extension specialists to conduct housing, feeding, poultry, dairy management meetings, and at recent district conferences preparatory to next series community meetings. Meetings held include farmer-livestock in 46 counties; farm machinery, 31 counties, attendance 6,443 farmers: reducing crop hazards, grasshoppers, etc., 27 counties.

Volunteer employment agent in every town of State through cooperation Employment Service, War Boards, Extension agents.

Representatives all agencies attended recent State garden conference. War Board selecting garden Committee every county. Agents training committees, launching State-wide program.

4-H Victory program carried by 12,000 4-H Club members. Red, white, and blue seals attached to certificate every member who completes one or more of special Victory Projects. Since fewer meetings possible, more attention given local-leader training, establishing result demonstrations every community.

Publications program devoted entirely to war effort, only small bulletins approved.

TEXAS (March 1).---Extension Director and county agents designated as educational leaders for USDA War Boards. Agents told help win war No. 1 job.

Agents holding community farm machinery-repair clinics. First one held Fisher County, 248 farmers attending five 1-day meetings; hundreds of other such clinics scheduled over State.

Victory Demonstrations pushed to stimulate farm and ranch people in war-time activities. Basis of demonstration: Produce needed food and fiber, repair and care of machinery and other equipment, buy wisely, cooperate in civilian-defense efforts, understand and help others to understand needed wartime adjustments, etc. Enrollment cards (50,000) for demonstration printed February 18. Supply exhausted in three days; 50,000 more printed, again exhausted; new supply now in press.

Supplying current wartime subject matter in printed series Food for Victory letters, sent mailing list of 2,567, including State War Board members, county war board chairmen, Extension agents, agriculture and home-economics teachers, members State Nutrition committee, representatives other agencies. Issued 7 letters dealing with gardens, food preservation, poultry, machinery repair, pasture problems.

Extension agents as War Board educational leaders holding State-wide food-production meetings. Wood County typical; 4 community meetings a day scheduled, February 16-20; county-wide meeting February 21. County agent and home agent each attended 1 meeting a day; representatives AAA, FEA, FCA, FSA attended others.

Home demonstration staff making survey available food-preservation equipment. Study in 43 counties revealed 87 commercial canning plants, 61 community canning centers. Half the home demonstration club members (more than 24,000 homes) in State have home-owned cookers. Counties own 178 retorts, 456 small pressure cookers; 307 can sealers used for 1933-34 meat canning. Those located being readied for canning season. Agreement reached with State supervisors of WPA Welfare projects for use school-lunch canning kitchens under Extension supervision by families in community without interfering school-lunch canning. By pooling available canning equipment, 2,354 community canning centers possible in Texas this year.

VIRGINIA (February 26).--Explains Victory Garden Program, launched in counties February 15 through county boards of agriculture and neighborhood garden committees, after clearance with USDA War Boards and Civilian Defense officials.

Program follows recommendations Extension Victory Garden Committee. Agents asked discuss program with professional workers' council and county board of agriculture and organize at least 1 neighborhood garden committee every neighborhood. In Westmoreland County, for example, each committee agreed personally to contact 5 or 6 families who never had a good garden, and advertise and preside at neighborhood garden meeting. Such meetings (12) held in county, 996 persons attending. Other meetings planned, 13; meetings with colored people, 6. Plan calls for all home demonstration and 4-H Clubs to devote at least 1 meeting to Victory Gardens; furnish garden material, training, etc., to neighborhood committee; and some professional worker to assist each committeeman in holding meeting. The Virginia Farm Victory Garden (100,000 copies) printed and distributed along with other subject-matter material.

WISCONSIN (March 9).--At request of Governor and in line with Secretary Wickard's memorandum, February 11, Director Clark, March 4, asked county agents cooperate with county committees on agriculture, set up by State statute, in appointing township voluntary war service committees, 3 men, 2 women, each to receive certificate and button from Governor; committees provide local machinery for quick cooperation with U. S. D.A., State

Conservation Department, State Planning Boards, State Council of Defense, Selective Service, etc. Detailed organization plans sent agents. County work plans streamlined and for main titles; Food for War, Health and Morale, Conservation Men and Materials, Long-Time Improvement.

Extension agents during January, working with War Boards, held 1,022 meetings, attendance 64,764 farmers, on increased production needed foods, labor, farm machinery, etc. Extension circular "What to do in 1942-5" mailed to all Wisconsin farmers, others being printed. Six district 1-day garden schools held for extension agents, FSA, AAA personnel; similar schools planned in June on pest control, preservation, storage. 4-H Club members, depending on age, agreeing to be responsible for all or part of family-garden needs. All home agents attended 2-day nutrition refresher courses, following Farm and Home Week in February. Nutrition, food preparation, influencing food habits stressed during week through news, radio, other material. Making special effort through leader training and hence local group meetings get people to check present supplies against nutrition yardstick.

WYOMING (March 1).--Most effort now going into organizing and training committeemen in Food for Freedom program, preparation of literature on food production, nutrition, gardening, dairying. Starting intensive spring educational campaign.

Recent publications included garden handbook, soybeans in Wyoming, vegetables, irrigation, adequate low-cost meals, grain rations for dairy cows.

4-H Club program emphasizing food production, conservation, health, nutrition projects. District meetings to train 4-H local leaders, 8; attendance, 300.

All county agents cooperating with AAA held State-wide, district, and finally 2-day county meetings to train local Food-for-Freedom leaders.

Agents active on scrap-iron collection, farm-machinery repair programs. Report good results. Orders for repair parts up 50 to 75 percent in 1 county; 60 tons of scrap iron collected in another.

